DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 339 878 CE 059 825

TITLE Florida's Adult Education Programs. Challenges and Accomplishments.
INSTITUTION Florida State Dept. of Education, Tallahassee. Bureau of Adult/Community Education.
PUB DATE Jan 91
NOTE 29p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Statistical Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adult Education; *Adult Literacy; Citizenship Education; Correctional Education; Demonstration Programs; Disabilities; Employment; English (Second Language); High Risk Students; High School Equivalency Programs; High School Graduates; Homeless People; Institutionalized Persons; Job Training; Limited English Speaking; *Literacy Education; Minority Groups; State Agencies; State Legislation; *State Programs; *Statewide Planning; Teacher Education
IDENTIFIERS *Florida; Workplace Literacy

ABSTRACT

Florida supported a wide range of educational activities for adults through an extensive network of public and private agencies during fiscal year 1989-90. In 1990, 419,429 adults participated in adult education programs. Adult educational programs assisted adults in completing requirements for U.S. citizenship and getting off welfare. A total of 9,966 adults obtained employment; 5,424 improved their employment. Just over 60 percent of the adult students served were minorities. Over 3,000 adults earned high school diplomas by completing coursework in adult high school classes; 32,722 adults earned a State of Florida High School Diploma (GED). Adult education programs provided a means for retrieving high school dropouts and engaging them in formal studies. The programs also provided alternative settings, a means of promoting family literacy, and direct services to teen parents. A total of 112,850 limited English proficient, 19,530 handicapped, 49,763 incarcerated, 10,759 institutionalized, and 1,947 homeless adults participated in adult education programs. The model noninstructional adult literacy centers established 39 formal agreements with local adult education programs and employers for delivery of workplace literacy programs. Twenty-two special experimental demonstration and teacher training projects were funded. Volunteer organizations were assisted in providing adult education services. Six state agencies developed and implemented plans to reduce adult illiteracy. (YLB)

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Florida's Adult Education Programs

Challenges
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January 1991

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Florida's Adult Education Programs

Challenges and Accomplishments

A Report

January 1991

State of Florida

For more information contact:

Florida Department of Education
Division of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education
Program Support Section
Bureau of Adult and Community Education
Florida Education Center
Tallahassee, Florida 33299-0400

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Acknowledgements

Contributions to this report were made by the following persons:

John E. Lawrence
Chief
Bureau of Adult and Community Education

Eugene Stafford
Program Director
Program Support Section
Bureau of Adult and Community Education

David Islitzer
Program Specialist
Program Support Section
Bureau of Adult and Community Education

Leatricia Williams
Program Director
Adult Education
Bureau of Adult and Community Education

The layout, graphics, and final copy of this report were prepared by:

Dr. Daniel L. Gardner
Adult and Vocational Education Department
College of Education
University of South Florida

Florida's Adult Education Programs
Challenges and Accomplishments

Florida supports a wide range of educational activities for adults through an extensive network of public and private agencies including

- public school districts,
- public community colleges,
- correctional institutions,
- libraries,
- volunteer organizations,
- employers,
- non-profit community-based agencies,
- social/health institutions, and
- military bases.

This report presents some of the challenges addressed by Florida's network of adult education providers. In addition, it highlights significant accomplishments achieved during fiscal year 1989-90 (FY 90). It is based on data submitted to the U. S. Office of Education in Florida's annual performance reports as required by the *Adult Education Act*, Public Law, 100-297.

Florida's adult education program needs result from population growth, basic educational attainment, immigration, economic development, and social change.

Population growth in Florida is estimated to increase at a rate of one million every three and a half years. This rate of increase means that Florida is the fastest growing state in the nation. By the year 2000, Florida's rank among state populations will rise from its 1987 ranking of fourth to third (or even second).

Educational attainment among 2.7 million of Florida's nine million adults (those age sixteen and older) is less than eight years of formal education. In addition, the dropout rate among young adults/at-risk youth continues to impact the overall educational level of the state.

Immigration is the major source of Florida's population growth. Immigrants, many from a variety of Caribbean and Latin American countries, represent a diversity of cultures. Thousands of additional Indochinese, Russian and Eastern European immigrants with limited English language skills are living in Florida. English language training for these individuals is required so they may be assimilated into the mainstream of Florida's population and become more employable, productive and responsible citizens.

Economic development of Florida is linked to the capabilities of the workforce. The fastest growing areas of employment continue to be in trade and services followed by health, business, amusement and recreational services. New jobs for sales clerks, waiters and waitresses, and general office clerks will show the greatest gain in numbers. These jobs require more than basic and functional literacy skills.

Social change in the areas of families, mobility, health/drugs, crime, teen pregnancy, and an aging workforce all place demands on adult education agencies.

Our Target Groups

Florida's adult education programs are directed at the following target groups of adults.

- Illiterate adults
- Undereducated adults
- Institutionalized/Incarcerated adults
- Homeless adults
- Workplace adults
- Handicapped adults
- Minority adults
- Limited English proficient adults
- At-risk youth (16 years or older)
- Older adults
- Parents/Family literacy

Service Providers

During FY 90, adult education services were provided to 419,429 adults through eighty-one (81) agencies.
Services were provided by

fifty-seven (57) school districts,
eleven (11) community colleges,
the Miccosukee Indian Tribe,
the Seminole Indian Tribe,
the Correctional Education School Authority,
four (4) community-based agencies,
four (4) libraries, and
two (2) university.

Our Challenges and Accomplishments

Florida's adult education programs operate to reduce illiteracy and undereducation among adults in Florida. Major program goals are to

- enable these adults to acquire the basic educational skills for literate functioning;
- provide these adults with sufficient basic education to enable them to benefit from job training and retraining programs and obtain and retain productive employment so that they might more fully enjoy the benefits and responsibilities of citizenship; and
- enable adults, who so desire, to continue their education to at least the level of completion of secondary school.

Challenge:

Adult Literacy

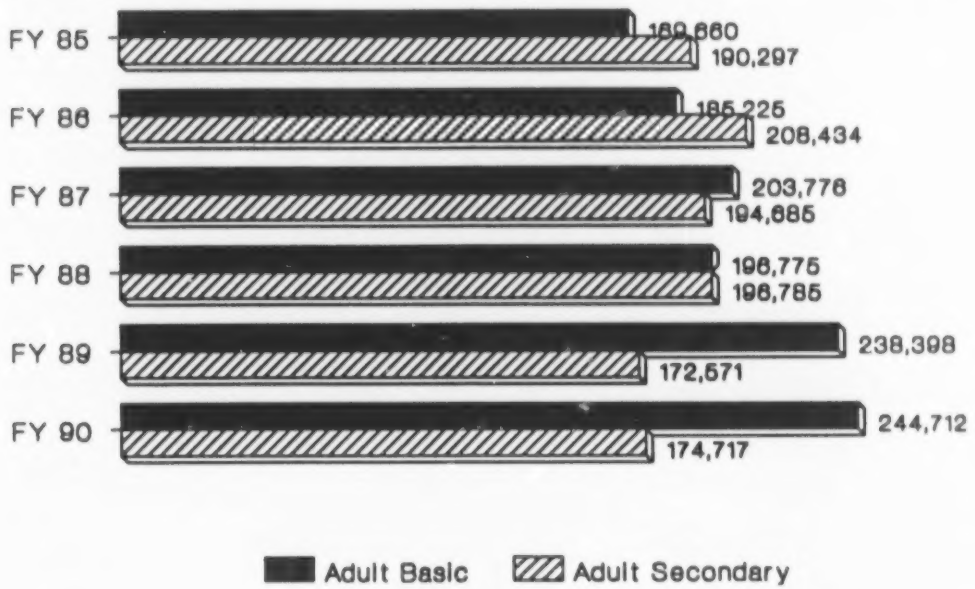
➤ To provide programs and services to assist adults to acquire the basic educational skills needed for literate functioning in our society.

Accomplishments:

- In 1990, 419,429 adults participated in Florida's adult education programs at several grade levels.

Grade Levels	Participants
0 - 5.9	170,669
6 - 8.9	74,043
9 - 12.9	174,717

- The following numbers of adults participated in adult basic and secondary education programs.



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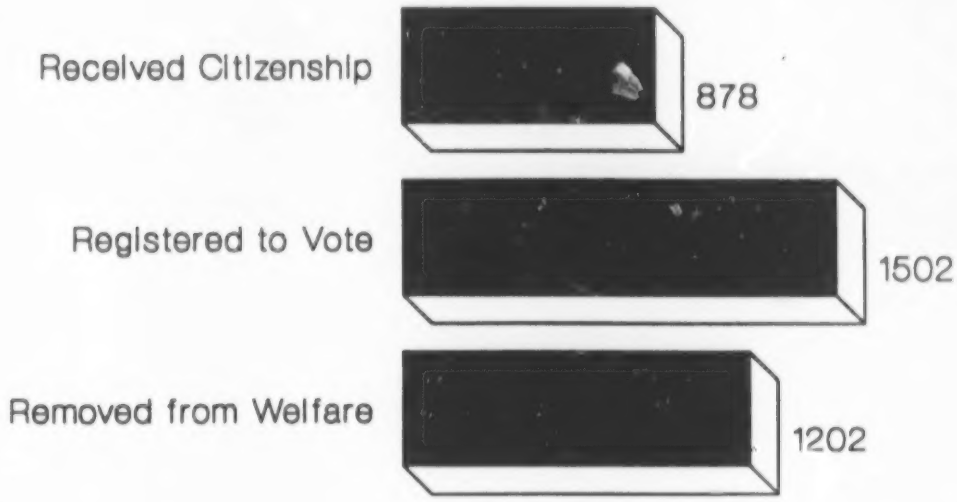
Challenge:

Social Change

➤ To assist adults to more fully express their civic responsibilities and improve their employment.

Accomplishments:

- Adult educational programs assisted adults to complete requirements for U. S. citizenship.
- Student support services provided adults with information about voter registration procedures and a variety of community services.
- The following numbers of adult education participants completed significant steps during FY 90 to help them participate more fully in society.



Challenge:

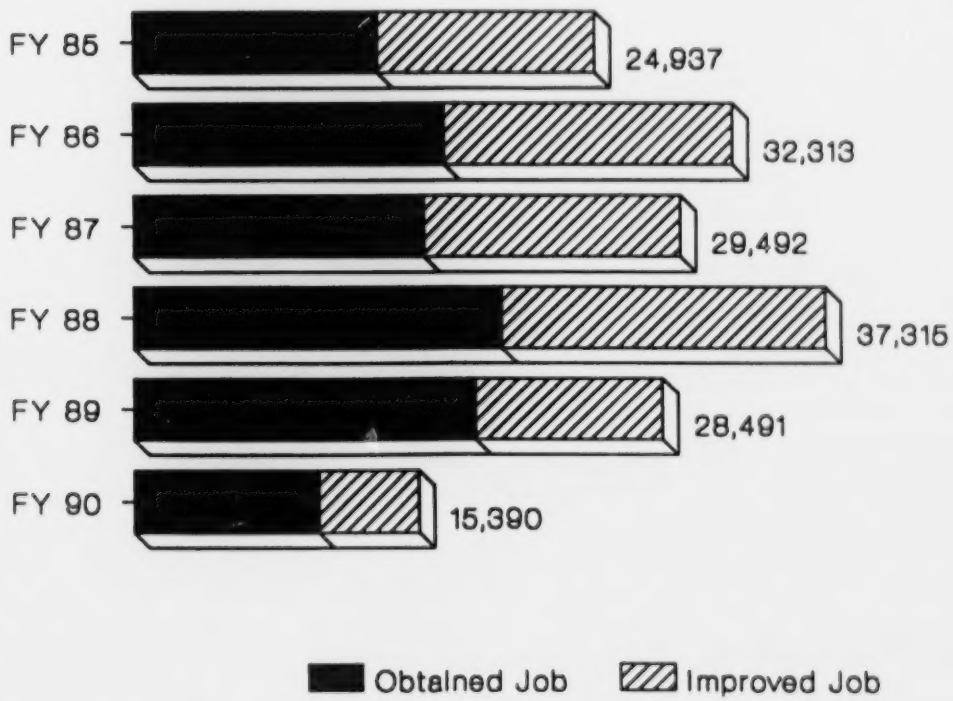
Adult Employment

➤ To provide educational programs which enable adults to obtain or improve their employment.

Accomplishments:

- During FY 90, a total of 9,966 adults obtained employment and 5,424 improved their employment, i.e., a better job or salary increase.

- This graphic illustrates the numbers of adults obtaining or improving employment through adult education programs since FY 85.



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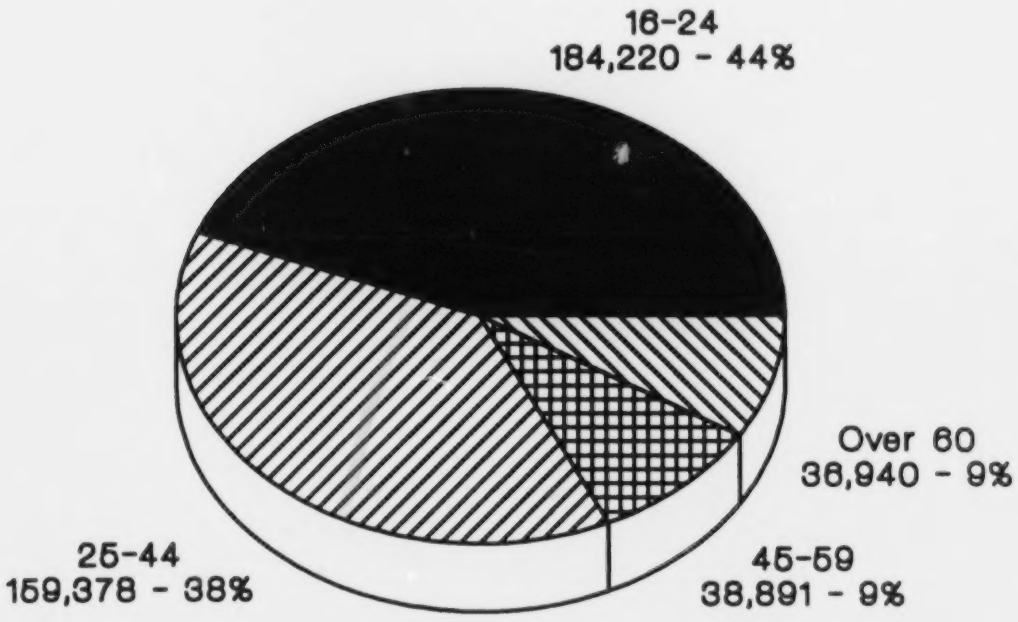
Challenge:

➤ To provide services to undereducated adults from different age groups.

Accomplishments:

- During FY 90, the largest group of adult education program participants were less than 25 years of age.
- This graphic illustrates the participation level of different age groups during FY 90.



Total = 419,429

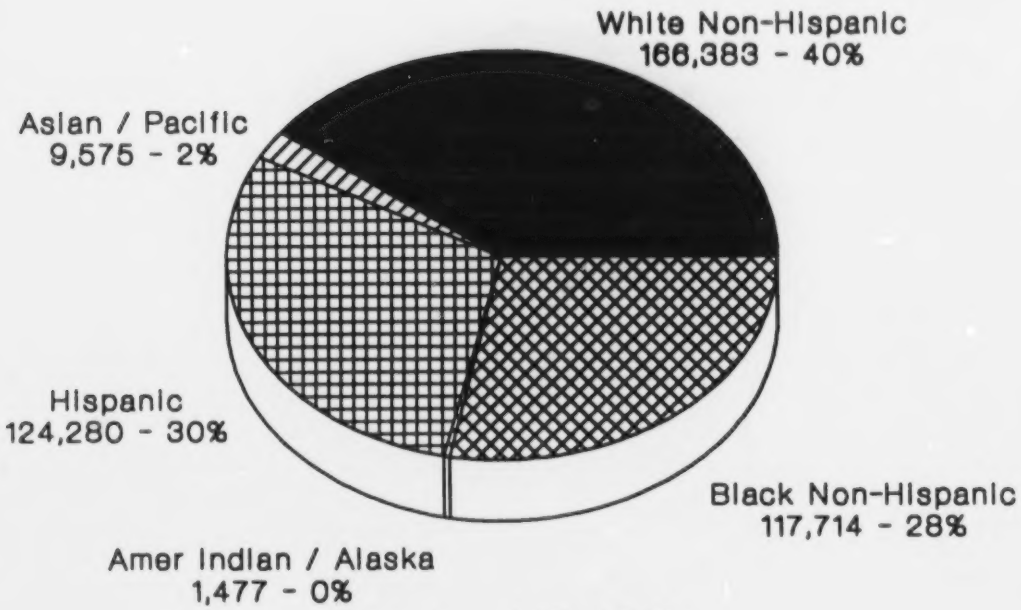
Challenge:

Minority Adults

➤ To promote and deliver programs which serve the needs of minority adult students.

Accomplishments:

- Just over 60%, or 253,046, the adult students served during FY 90 were minorities.
- This graphic illustrates the rate of participation of various groups during FY 90.



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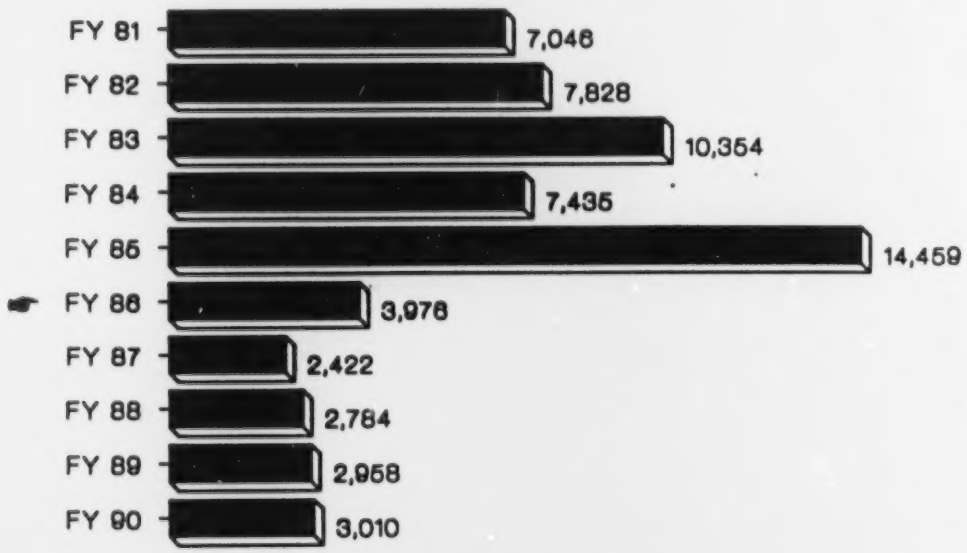
Challenge:

High School Completion

➤ **To provide opportunities for adults to complete coursework needed for a standard high school diploma.**

Accomplishments:

- In FY 90, over 3,000 adult students earned their high school diplomas by completing their coursework in adult high school classes.
- This graphic illustrates the number of adult high school diplomas issued each fiscal year since 1981.



☛ Note: The number of high school diplomas issued to adults decreased after the 1983 "RAISE" Bill was implemented. This bill increased the number of credits required for high school graduation to 24.

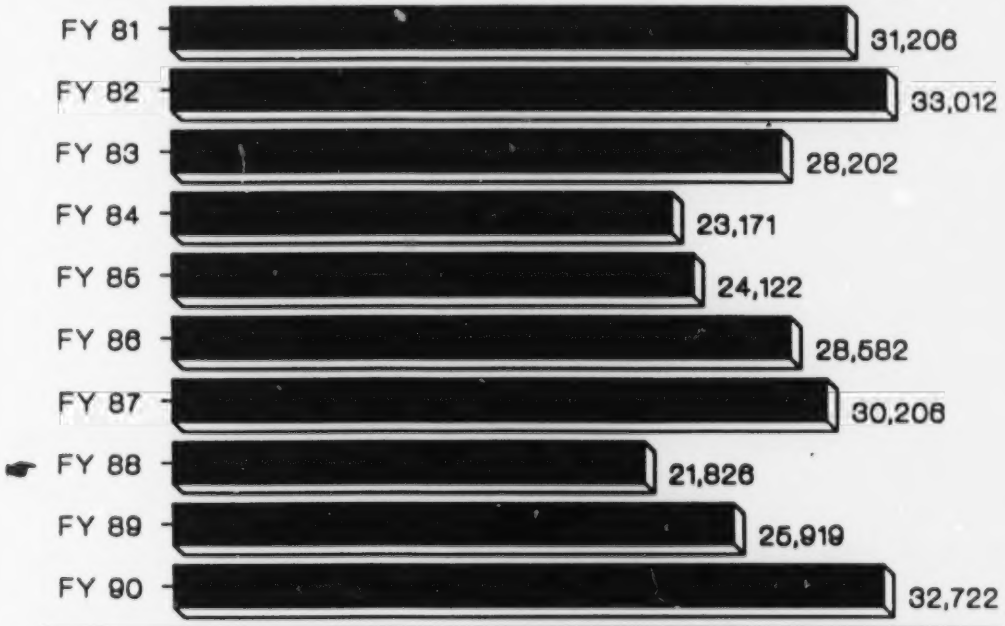
Challenge:

General Educational Development

➤ To provide opportunities for adults to earn a State of Florida High School Diploma by successfully completing the General Educational Development Test (GED).

Accomplishments:

- In FY 90, a total of 32,722 adults earned a State of Florida High School Diploma (GED). This finding was reported in Florida's annual summary of the GED testing program.
- GED testing centers are located throughout the state in 65 school districts, 11 community colleges, 32 correctional institutions, road prisons, and 4 HRS facilities.
- This graphic illustrates the number of adults awarded the State of Florida High School Diploma (GED) since 1981.



☛ Note: The number of State of Florida High School Diplomas (GED) issued to adults decreased after the new GED testing format was implemented. This format included an essay component.

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Challenge:

At-Risk Youth /Young Adults

➤ **To provide collaborative programs and services with high schools which serve the special needs of at-risk youth and enable recent dropouts to return to an educational setting.**

Accomplishments:

- Adult education programs provide a means for retrieving high school dropouts and engaging them in formal studies.
- Adult education programs provide alternative settings which better suit some high school age students.
- In most school districts, dropout prevention programs integrate adult education courses, facilities, and personnel.
- Adult education provides a means for promoting family literacy.
- Many local adult education program provide direct services to teen parents in an effort to keep them in school and help them understand parenting roles and prenatal / post-natal care.

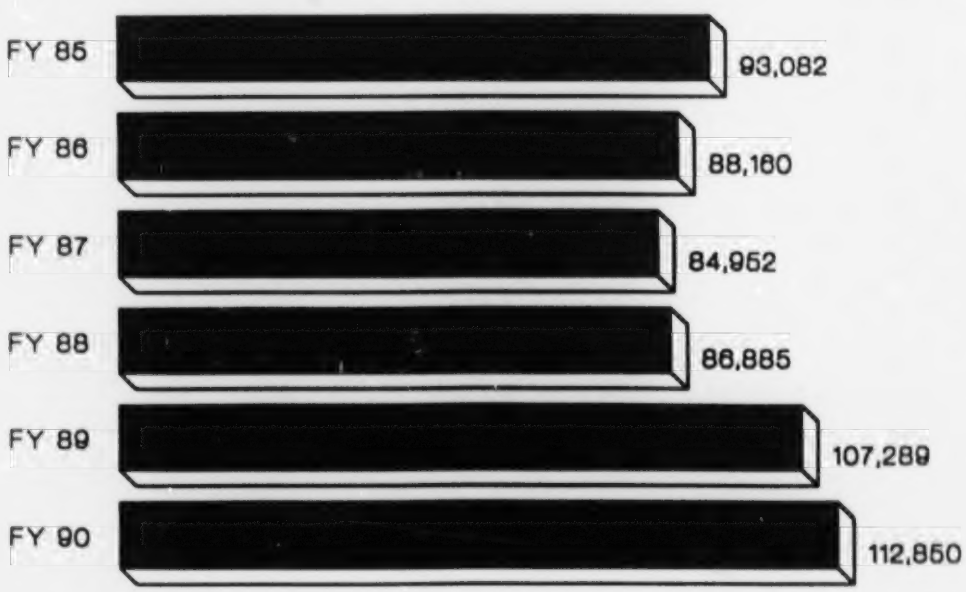
Challenge:

Limited English Proficient Adults

➤ To provide a comprehensive program to assist adults with limited English proficiency (LEP) skills to function in our society.

Accomplishments:

- A total of 112,850 LEP adults were served through Florida's adult education programs during FY 90.
- A total of 23,387 adults, with "eligible legalized alien" status, were served during FY 90.
- This graphic illustrates the number of adults who participated in English as a second language (ESL) courses each year since FY 85.



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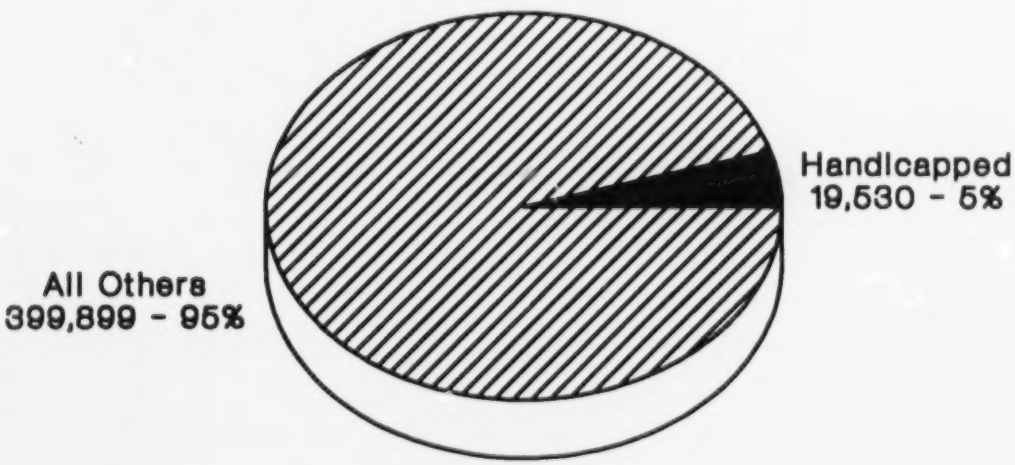
Challenge:

Handicapped Adults

➤ **To provide handicapped adults with instructional and support services to enable them to fully participate in adult education programs.**

Accomplishments:

- A total of 19,530 handicapped adults participated in adult education programs during FY 90.
- In 1990, the Florida State Board of Education adopted rules to implement *The Education for Handicapped Adults Act* (S. 228.0727, F.S.) which was enacted by the Florida Legislature in 1989. This Act provided funding for additional support services for handicapped adults.
- This graphic illustrates the percent of FY 90 program participants who were handicapped.



Total = 419,429

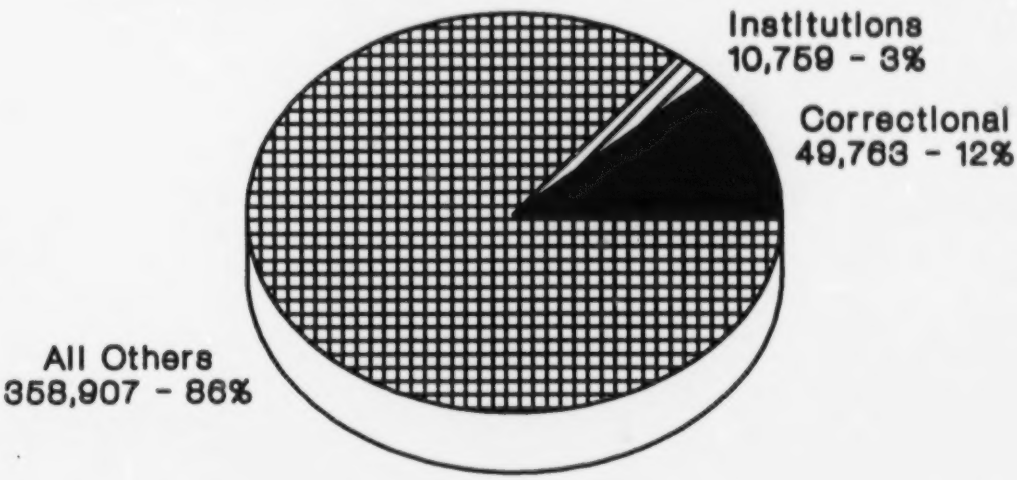
Challenge:

Institutionalized and Incarcerated Adults

➤ **To provide adult education opportunities to undereducated institutionalized or incarcerated adults.**

Accomplishments:

- A total of 49,763 adults, incarcerated in Florida's correctional facilities, participated in adult education programs during FY 90.
- A total of 10,759 adults, institutionalized in various agencies, participated in adult education programs during FY 90. These agencies included hospitals, residential treatment facilities, sheltered workshops, etc.
- This graphic illustrates the percent of FY 90 program participants who were institutionalized or incarcerated.



Total = 419,429

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Challenge:

Workplace Literacy

➤ To provide programs to teach literacy skills to adults in workplace settings.

Accomplishments:

- The model noninstructional adult literacy centers established thirty-nine (39) formal agreements with local adult education programs and employers for the delivery of workplace literacy programs. These centers were operated through the following agencies:
  - Brevard Community College
  - Broward County Public School District
  - Daytona Beach Community College
  - Miami-Dade Community College
  - Okaloosa-Walton Community College
  - Polk County Public School District
  - Santa Rosa County Public School District

- Florida Atlantic University conducted a special project to produce
  - an annotated bibliography of literature and resources related to workplace literacy programs;
  - a step-by-step guide to developing literacy programs in the workplace; and
  - a descriptive collection of model workplace literacy programs.

- A total of 5,942 adults participated in workplace literacy programs during FY 90.

Challenge:

Homeless Literacy

➤ To provide educational programs and support services specially designed to serve the homeless adult population.

Accomplishments:

- A total of 1,947 homeless adults participated in various adult education and literacy programs through Florida during FY 90.

- The following two (2) special programs for homeless adults were recognized as exemplary programs in Florida by the Adult and Community Education Network Clearinghouse (the ACE Network Clearinghouse) operated at Florida Atlantic University:
  - *The Broward Backpack*
    Broward County Public School District
    This was an outreach program designed to inform homeless families, runaway youth, and individuals of basic education programs available to them. It provided literacy instruction and basic skills remediation for participants.
  - *Project Re-Start*
    Dade County Public School District
    This program was designed to reduce homelessness by encouraging homeless adults to complete academic and vocational programs. Participants were referred to academic programs, employment opportunities, counseling, and special assistance.

Challenge:

Special Experimental Demonstration and Teacher Training Projects

➤ **To support the development of innovative methods, systems, materials, and programs to promote comprehensive and coordinated approaches to assist adults with educational deficiencies and to support training of persons engaged or preparing to engage in the delivery of adult education services.**

Accomplishments:

- Twenty-two (22) special demonstration projects were funded during FY 90. Projects were conducted by ten (10) school districts, four (4) community colleges, four (4) community-based agencies, and two (2) universities. Projects related to the following topics.

Number of Projects	Major Topic
5	Family Literacy
1	Dropout Recovery
1	Handicapped Adults
2	Literacy Volunteers
2	Workplace Literacy
1	English - ESOL
1	Corrections Education
4	Adult Basic Education
1	Dissemination
2	Library-based programs
1	Older Adults
1	Competency-based Programs

Challenge:

Volunteer Instructors

➤ **To assist volunteer organizations to provide adult education services.**

Accomplishments:

- Forty-three (43) counties reported linkages for volunteer services.
- During 1990, a total of 79,475 hours of volunteer instruction were reported by the model noninstructional adult literacy centers and 760,428 hours of instruction for adult literacy students were reported by all adult education providers.
- Volunteer instruction was provided for 16,111 adult literacy students during FY 90.
- A total of 1,264 volunteers were trained during FY 90 to provide instruction via the model noninstructional adult literacy centers and a total of 10,685 volunteers were trained to provided instructional services for adult literacy students via all adult education providers.
- A total of 41,207 hours of training were provided for volunteer adult literacy instructors.

Challenge:

Network of State Agencies

➤ **To facilitate the involvement of state agencies in the delivery of adult education services to undereducated adults.**

Accomplishments:

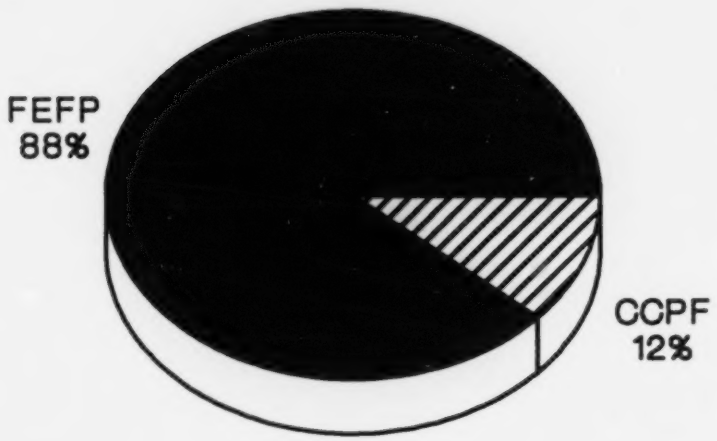
- In response to the *Florida Adult Literacy Act*, the following six (6) state agencies developed and implemented plans to reduce adult illiteracy in Florida.
  - Correctional Education School Authority
  - Department of Education
  - Department of Labor and Employment Security
  - Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services
  - Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services
  - the Governor's Office
- The Florida Adult Literacy Policy Academy Team monitored the implementation of the *Florida Adult Literacy Act*.

Our Resources

State Funding

During FY 90, state funding for adult general education totaled $173,000,000. The following programs were funded.

- The Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP) provided $153,000,000 for school districts.
- The Community College Program Fund (CCPF) provided $20,000,000 for community colleges.

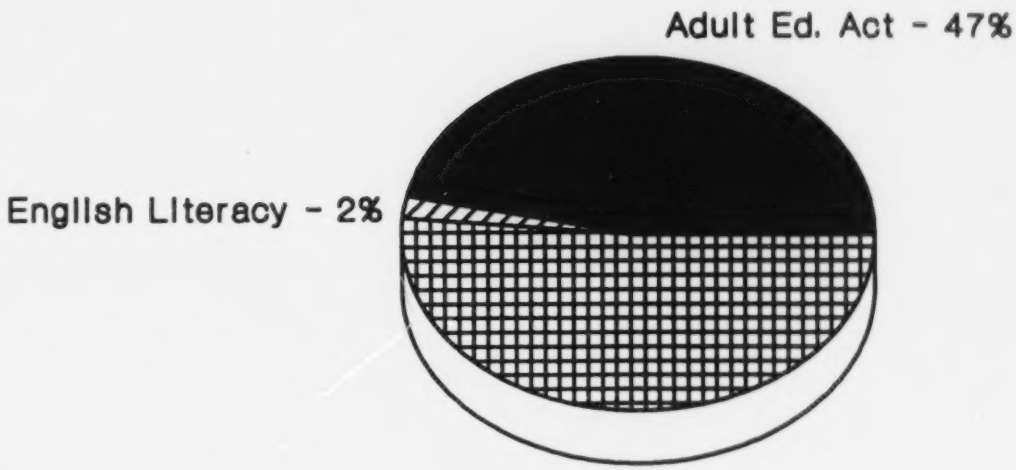


$173,000,000
FY 90

Federal Funding

During FY 90, Federal funding for adult education totaled $12,039,000. The following programs were funded.

- The *Adult Education State-Administered Basic Grant Program, Adult Education Act*, (P.L. 100-297), $5,600,000
- State Legalization Impact Assistance Grant (SLIAG) that provided educational funds for eligible legalized aliens on a reimbursement basis, $6,200,000
- The *State-Administered English Literacy Program*, $239,000



$12,039,000
FY 90

State of Florida
Department of Education
Tallahassee, Florida
Betty Castor, Commissioner
Affirmative action/equal opportunity employer